

A  
NARRATIVE

OF THE

Christian Experiences

OF

GEORGE BEWLEY,

late of the City of *Corke*, deceased.

WRITTEN by HIMSELF :

And Published with the APPROBATION,  
and by ORDER of the *National HALF-  
YEAR'S MEETING*, held in  
*DUBLIN* in the third Month, 1750.

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# P R E F A C E.

**T**HE following Memorial, not disclosed during the Life, was found after the Death of the pious and worthy Author. The Discovery proved agreeable and consolating to his surviving Family and Relations: And as the Matter contained, livelily flows forth from the sweet Spring of God's universal Love, experimentally describing the tender Mercies, wherewith the Lord visited his Soul during his Minority, and continued thro' the several Stages of his Life, to the happy and peaceable Conclusion thereof; they thought it not proper to be confined to themselves, barely for their own Use and Edification. It was therefore laid before the Mens Meeting of Cork, and Provincial Meeting of Munster, which being affected therewith, desired its Publication for a general Benefit, and for that end recommended it to the National Meeting held in Dublin, in which, on the 9th Instant, it was perused, approved, and ordered to be printed.

I join my earnest Desires, that it may please the Almighty to bless the perusal thereof to many, to the making profitable Impressions on the tender Minds of a young Generation now coming upon the Stage: Then will they clearly see, that one little Treatise of this kind, is far better than a great number of the corrupt Books, with which

## P R E F A C E.

*this Age too much abounds: They will of course detest and avoid them, as deadly Poison, that tend to destroy Virtue, and the Fear of the Lord, which is their only Safety and Happiness. Also that it may stir up Ministers, Elders, Heads of Families, and those that are moved to lend a helping Hand in Church Government, to Vigilance, and a right Discharge of those great and important Duties, so much needed at this Day.*

*With Gratitude, do I remember this faithful and godly Elder, who, in his life-time, was instrumental to my Good, and who is now, I firmly believe, with the Church Triumphant, enjoying the Reward of a steady Fidelity, and Perseverance in Truth and Righteousness. He was a Pattern of Humility, Moderation, and Self-denial, more in Substance than Appearance, yet diligent, zealous, and exemplary in the Service of God and his Church; and though Dead, his Memory lives, and is honourable. That the Remembrance of him and others, who have finished their Course well, may excite us that survive, to follow them (thro' our various Trials, and respective Duties and Services) with the like steady Zeal and Sincerity, to the period of our Days, is the fervent desire of,*

CHRISTIAN READER,

Dublin, 11th  
3d Month, 1750.

Thy real Friend,

JAMES GOUGH.



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# A Narrative, &c.

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**I** GEORGE BEWLEY, of the City of *Corke*, have had a Concern on my Mind, divers times, to leave some Hints in Writing behind me, concerning the Lord's tender and fatherly Care, Mercies and Preservations extended towards me, that my Children and others, who may have the Perusal thereof, may be excited to love, fear, worship and serve the LORD GOD in their Day, who is worthy for ever, *Amen*.

I was born at *Ivegill*, in the County of *Cumberland*, in the third Month, 1684. My Parents Names were *George* and *Mary Bewley*, who not only professed the Blessed Truth, but possessed the living Virtue thereof. They were good Examples to their Children, and concerned to bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord; as also to give them suitable Learning.

About the seventh Year of my Age, it pleased the Lord to reach unto, and secretly incline my Mind to love to go to Meetings, (there being at that time a Meeting once in two Weeks, both First Day and Week Day, held at my Father's House, and at a Friend's

House when not held there, two Miles from it) and at Times I would be so tendered in Meetings, and affected with divine Goodness (tho' I scarce knew what it was) that Desires were raised to feel more; and I often found a Fear of going to Play and other childish Folly, always finding, that when I did so, I came to a Loss, as to the Enjoyment of that inward Sweetness and Tenderneſs, which at times I was favoured with, not only when verbal Testimonies were born, but also in time of Silence. I had also, when thus young in Years, a great Love towards Friends of the Ministry, many of whom would frequently lodge at my Father's House.

Between the ninth and eleventh Years of my Age, I was frequently sensible of inward Reproof and Sorrow, for giving way too much to childish Play, &c. and one time sitting in a Meeting in time of Silence, I was much broken and tendered, so that many Tears ran from my Eyes, yet I was sweetly affected with inward Comfort, and was made sensible, that I had too much given way to childish Folly, insomuch that a dislike was begot in me to it, and I resolv'd to be more watchful for the future. Then such things, instead of being pleasant to me, became rather burthen-some, and I chose to walk alone into the Fields (from Play) to pray to the Lord for Preservation out of the Evils of the World.

Thus I found the Lord secretly at Work in my Heart, in order to purify and cleanse it, begetting longing Desires in me after Purity  
and

and Holiness, which was attended with Care and Watchfulness over my Words and Actions, and as he, in tender Mercy, inclined my Mind to seek after heavenly things, so he begat a living Faith in me, that his Grace and good Spirit was sufficient, not only to wash and sanctify, but also to preserve out of every evil Way, Word and Work.

I, and one of my Brothers, went to a School in a Place, called a *Chapel of Ease*, about a Mile distant from our Father's House; the School-master was a moderate Man. When some of the Boys, or others, would scoffingly call us *Quakers*, adding, that the *Quakers* were no Christians, I considered their Words, and soon was made clearly sensible, that what they called *Baptism*, or *Sprinkling of Infants*, was (agreeable to their own Confession) but an *outward and visible Sign of inward and spiritual Grace*, tho' they said, they *were thereby made Members of the Church of Christ, and Children of God*. I was made fully satisfied, that *Inward and spiritual Grace* was sufficient without any *outward Sign* (the Baptism of Christ being of a spiritual Nature, cleansing the Inside) and that was what I desired, and in measure according to my Growth, was made sensible of.

When I was about twelve Years of Age I was troubled, observing some in our religious Meetings for Worship, giving way to Sleep and Drowsiness, tho' I was pretty well preserved therefrom; yet I was often hard beset with a wandering Mind, and one time in a Meeting,



Meeting, being desirous to be delivered from vain Thoughts, (they being a trouble to me) suddenly I was, as it were, enclosed with a glorious Light, and immediately all vain Thoughts vanished away, and I sat in great Calmness and Sweetness for some time. When this was withdrawn, I was sensible that it was a renewed, gracious Visitation from the Lord unto me, by his blessed Light, Grace and good Spirit, which confirmed my Faith in the Sufficiency thereof, and that all who loved, believed in, and obeyed it, should not only obtain Victory over vain Thoughts and a wandering Mind, but also over evil Words and Actions.

About this time I was taken from the aforementioned School, and sent to another, about twenty Miles from my Father's House. When I was leaving my Parents, my dear Mother gave me good Advice, and cautioned me against keeping Company with rude and bad Boys: this I thought was my Duty to observe, and I hoped carefully to do it, and expressed myself to that purpose to her. I was kept at this School about twelve Months, being boarded at an Uncle's House (my Mother's Brother) who, with my Aunt, was kind to me and careful over me. I was thro' the Lord's Mercy preserved, not only from gross Pollutions, but in a good Degree from evil Communication, bad Words, and hurtful Conversation; yet so it was, I came to some Loss as to the Life of Innocency, which occasioned in me great Affliction and Trouble of Mind, and I longed to return home again, which when I did,



did, I was more easy, not being exposed to so much Company as I had been.

I hope I never shall forget the great Care and Concern that was upon many of our Parents and Elders, in those Days, for our Preservation in the Way of Truth, and that we might be kept out of Pride and Vanity, and the hurtful Conversation of the World. Also great was the Labour and Travel of many faithful Labourers, in the Work of the Ministry, for the Good of Friends in general, and for the young Generation in particular.

One time about the Year 1696, I well remember how that, in a large Meeting of Friends, the Lord's blessed, heart-tendering Power was eminently manifested, being in a good degree over all. A faithful Friend and Minister of Christ (in said Meeting) was drawn forth, in his Testimony, to express his earnest Concern for the Good of the Youth, that they might be a Generation to serve the Lord, when they the Elders were removed; and, under this Concern, he had besought the Lord for them, and queried of him, saying, *What wilt thou do for this young Generation?* And the Lord was graciously pleased to answer, that *He would give them a Day of Visitation.* And I may say from certain Knowledge, that the Lord performed his Promise; for a glorious and blessed Visitation of the Day-spring from on High, was about that time extended to the Youth, in a pretty general Manner, of which my Soul (as I have hinted before) was made a Partaker in the Land of my Nativity,

Nativity, between the Years 1691 and 1698. I was not only broken, and tenderly affected with the Lord's Goodness, but I observed the same in divers other young People, and particularly in some of my near Relations and Acquaintance (in the County of *Cumberland*) and we would sometimes, after such heart-tendering Meetings, tell one another in Love how it was with us, and encourage each other to *Remember our Creator in the Days of our Youth*, and that we might grow in Grace as we grew in Years. I always found these precious Seasons humbled us, and weaned us from childish Follies, which we as well as others were by Nature prone to.

Many hopeful Plants did the Lord raise up in the aforesaid County, and by the Virtue of his holy Power and Spirit, fitted them for his Service, and tho' some of them were removed by Death when young, yet divers were made able Ministers of the Gospel, and others qualified for Help-meets in Government, for maintaining good Order and Discipline in the Church, and were concerned to walk before the Flock as good Patterns and Examples.

In the Year 1698, two ministring Friends from *Ireland*, viz. *Joshua Northall*, and *Gershon Boat*, being on a Visit to Friends, and lodging at my Father's House, were acquainted that I was in the fourteenth Year of my Age, and fit to go Apprentice, *Gershon* proposed to my Parents their sending me to *Dublin*, in which City he thought he could readily provide me a Place; they consented, and I was satisfied there-

therewith, and soon after the Return of said Friends to *Ireland*, a Letter came from *Edward Webb*, a Linnen-drapeer in *Dublin*, (to whom *Gershon Boat* had spoken concerning me) desiring my Father to send me over as soon as he could: accordingly I went over in the sixth Month, 1698.

And now being removed from a Country Place to a large and populous City, in which I apprehended there was great Danger of Youth being hurt, I was very thoughtful, lest I should lose that good Condition, which in measure I had attained unto. I found the Fear of the Lord near (in my Heart) which preserved me in a good Degree of Innocency, and Sobriety in my Conversation, and in Plainness of Apparel and Speech, which holy Fear brought me under a religious Care, lest I should offend him my Creator. I also found a Concern on my Mind, to discharge my Duty faithfully toward my Master, and to be diligent and honest in his Business, yet I was afraid of using too many unnecessary Words in the Way of Trade. The Saying of the wise Man in the Book of *Proverbs* was often in my Mind, *That in the Multitude of Words there wanteth not Sin*; and at Times, (particularly in the Night Season) I found inward Convictions when I had not been so watchful over my Words as I ought to have been; and when I got Liberty to take a Walk, I often went alone into the Fields, or some other solitary Place, where I could not be seen, and poured forth my Prayers and Tears to the Lord,  
 begging



begging of him Pardon for my Offences, and Preservation from the Temptations of the World, which I plainly saw were many.

The Lord's Goodness was very great to me, the Sense of which would often seize my Mind, and I saw that I ought to walk very circumspectly, and in great Humility before him, for blessed be his Name, he still followed me; he waited to be gracious, and visited me both immediately and instrumentally. An additional Mercy he favoured me with, to wit, the Advantage of pious and religious Parents, whose Concern was great for my Welfare, and Preservation in the blessed Truth; I being now removed at some Distance from them, their Care did not lessen, for they frequently wrote Letters of tender Exhortation, Counsel, and Advice to me, which I kept by me as good Treasure, and would often read and peruse them.

I had an only Sister, the eldest of my Father's Children, she was a very good Example to us that were younger, in Piety and Virtue, in true Humility and Obedience to our Parents; she also wrote to me, being thoughtful of my Welfare. One of her Letters I thought proper to insert here, not only for manifesting her Regard to me, but to excite my Children and others to that which is good, and for their Encouragement in the Way of Righteousness.

*Dear*

*Ivegill, 18th of the 11th Month, 1701.*

*Dear Brother,*

**I**N that Love, which neither length of  
 ' Time, nor number of Miles is able to  
 ' separate from, I dearly salute thee. Though  
 ' I have been slow in writing, thou art often  
 ' in my remembrance, and my Supplications  
 ' are to the Lord for thy preservation as my  
 ' own.

' Dear Brother, that which is before me at  
 ' present, is to put thee in remembrance of the  
 ' many favours we receive from the hand of  
 ' the Lord; what have we that is good but  
 ' from the hand of God? Neither have we  
 ' any Enjoyment, but it is easy with the Lord  
 ' to take it from us, or us from it; therefore  
 ' I desire that whatsoever we be concern-  
 ' ed in, it may be our greatest care to do that  
 ' which may tend to God's Honour. They that  
 ' honour him, them will he honour; but they  
 ' that dishonour the Lord shall be lightly  
 ' esteemed.

' True Fear is an excellent thing: the Fear  
 ' of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.  
 ' What is all the Wisdom of this World, that  
 ' it should be compared to the Love of God?

' Therefore, dear Brother, be much inward  
 ' with the Lord: let it always be thy greatest  
 ' Care, that thou be found doing thy Day's-  
 ' work in thy Day; for we are not to serve  
 ' ourselves but the Lord, for he is worthy;  
 ' and great is the Peace and Satisfaction of them  
 ' that serve the Lord faithfully, and are wil-

‘ling to follow him fully in all his Requirings  
 ‘according to their knowledge.

‘I desire thou may be careful, that Business  
 ‘do not take up thy Mind too much ; for the  
 ‘Cares of this Life, and the deceitfulness of  
 ‘Riches are a great hurt to many of the Pro-  
 ‘fessors of Truth.

‘It is not our Knowledge nor our Profession  
 ‘that will stand us in stead, but to be in reali-  
 ‘ty what we seem to be : this is that which  
 ‘will stand, when all that are not what they  
 ‘seem to be shall be shaken ; so I conclude  
 ‘with dear Love to thee,

*Thy Loving Sister,*  
 MARY BEWLEY.

Now to return to my own State and Condi-  
 tion : When I had served about half of my Ap-  
 prenticeship, I got acquaintance with divers  
 young People, whose Company I loved, and  
 with some of them I was at times too free in dis-  
 course and jocularity, and for want of watchful-  
 ness, and dwelling under the Cross of Christ  
 (the Power of God, by which I was often visited  
 as afore-mentioned) I received hurt, and suf-  
 fered Loss, as to the inward Life and Virtue of  
 Religion ; tho’ praised be the Lord, he pre-  
 served me out of gross Evils. I was now de-  
 sirous of greater Liberty than Truth and faith-  
 ful concerned Elders allowed of ; and a wise  
 arguing Part got up, in which I was ready to  
 account divers things but small, that the Te-  
 stimony of Truth was against, not considering  
 the hurtful tendency of them, and that it  
 was



was the Duty of a true Christian to avoid every appearance of Evil.

While I was in this condition, a particular Visit was appointed by Friends for young People. I considered before I went to it what I had, or wore, that was not agreeable to the Minutes and Advices concerning Plainness frequently recommended, intending by Arguments to justify myself, if I should be spoken unto about any particular, apprehending there was so little in some things advised against, that they were not to be minded. In this Mind I went to the Meeting, and had not long sat therein, until the heart-tendering Power, and Presence of the Lord so immediately broke in upon me, that I was greatly humbled under a Sense thereof, and of my State and Condition. I now plainly saw that the Concern of faithful Elders and Overseers, was for the Good and Preservation of us the Youth, from vain and hurtful Conversation; and that we might be kept in Innocency, and be redeemed from the vain Fashions and Customs of the World; and it appeared to me, that it was our place to be of condescending Minds, and that it would tend to our Peace and Safety, to dwell in Subjection to them, who had the rule and oversight of us, altho' we, being young, might not see hurt in some things which they, being more experienced, might have a clearer Sight of. From this time, I was careful not to argue for undue Liberty in any respect, and was brought under trouble of Mind, that I had too much given way thereto.

Great was the Care and Concern of faithful Elders in those Days, in the City of *Dublin*, for the Preservation of the young Generation out of the Evils that are in the World; they were good Examples to us, and often advised and admonished us for our good, not only in family Visits but at other times; and we generally received their Counsel well, and were thankful for it; and the well inclined were helped thereby. There was a large Meeting in that City then, and many worthy Ministers and Elders; and Friends there were a plain, humble, self-denying People, and had a great regard to the Advice, Rules and Precepts of the Antients, and were zealously concerned to observe them, and in a good degree Truth prospered, and Friends were comforted in the Lord, and encouraged to follow him faithfully, and were greatly concerned that their Children and Families should do the same.

Towards the latter part of my Apprenticeship I was visited with Sickness, during which, the Lord's tender dealings with me, and how he followed me from my Childhood with his Mercies and Judgments, were brought to my remembrance; I was also very low in my Mind, and then the Tempter set upon me, and endeavoured to perswade me, that as I had not walked worthy of the many Favours I received, but had given way to things which had done me hurt, (as to my inward condition) so now it was just in the Lord, not only to suffer Affliction of Body to be upon me, but also to cease striving with me. Under

der this Temptation I was brought at times even to the brink of Despair, but the Lord my God, in mercy and pity, looked down upon me, and did not wholly leave me; for in the time of my greatest Fears and Doubts, there was a secret Hope raised in me that I was not wholly forsaken, and I felt secret Desires and Breathings to him, now in the time of need. I covenanted with him, that if he would be pleased to restore me to my former State of Health, and renew unto my Soul his gracious Visitations, and pardon my Offences, that I would be more circumspect and careful for the time to come. Friends had a Love for me, and visited me when I was thus weak in Body, and under Exercise of Mind; and in the Lord's time he was pleased to raise me up again. O that I may for ever keep covenant with him, who never fails his People that truly trust in his Name.

Great was the labour of Love in the work of the Ministry, that the Lord favoured Friends with; I kept an Account of the Names of such Ministers as visited us, from the Year 1698 to 1705, which amounted to upwards of one hundred and fifty; many of whom were as Clouds filled with heavenly Rain.

In the seventh Month 1705 (my Apprenticeship being expired) I went over to *England*, to see my dear Parents and near Relations, and stayed some time with them, and then returned to *Dublin*, intending to set up there for myself (my Father being willing to give me some Money for that purpose) but it providentially



fell out, that in the third Month 1706, divers Friends from *Cork* were at *Dublin*, at the national Meeting, one of which was *Joseph Hoar*; he wanted a Clerk to keep his Books, and I was recommended to him: We readily agreed upon terms, and I was very easy in going to that City, being fearful of engaging too soon in Business for myself, and was desirous to learn more Experience in the World.

On my leaving *Dublin*, Friends gave me a good Certificate, and my aforementioned Master, *Joseph Hoar*, being an honest, good natured, generous Friend, his Service was very agreeable to me in many respects, and I had liberty to attend Meetings both on first and week Days, which was a great Satisfaction to me.

Soon after I came to *Corke*, Friends took notice of me, and invited me to sit in their Men's Meeting. I observed the Diligence and Care of faithful Elders, to keep up the Testimony of Truth, in its several Branches: Great was their Concern to warn and admonish the unruly, and to comfort the feeble-minded. I was glad of this religious Care, and in my Heart joined with their labour of Love, and was comforted and affected in beholding their great and true Zeal, for the honour of God, and the good of his Church; yet I was often under exercise and sorrow on my own account, earnestly desiring, that I might attain unto a greater Possession of that holy Principle of Grace and Truth, which I made Profession of; being made sensible from the  
Days

Days of my Youth, that it was absolutely necessary for a true Christian to be inwardly sanctified, and made holy, and to press toward the Mark, for the Prize of the high Calling of God in Christ Jesus.

And though my outward Conversation and Appearance was orderly, I was much exercised that I might know the work of God carried on in my Soul; I wanted to be more nearly united to him in Spirit, and to enjoy a greater degree of his Love, which when I could not attain unto, I was not easy, and then would seek solitary Places to bemoan myself in, being bowed in Prayer before the Lord, earnestly desiring, that he would be near to help me thro' this Vail of Tears, and grant unto me the lifting up of the Light of his Countenance; and, magnified be his great and everlasting Name, he was very good and gracious; he often drew near to me, and prepared in me the Sacrifice of a broken Heart, and contrite Spirit, which he always accepted of.

I delighted in the Company of honest Friends, of which number there were many in this City. I greatly loved the Ministers of Christ, who in the Love of the Gospel, were engaged to run to and fro, that the Knowledge of the Lord might increase. There were one hundred and eight of such Labourers, that visited this City, from the Year 1706 to 1713, most of them from the Nation of *England*; some of them hazarding their Lives to answer the Lord's requirings; they were very helpful to me in my spiritual Travail and Exercise,  
and

and I often went with them to adjacent Meetings, wishing well to that good Cause, in which they were engaged; and I esteemed them for the Sake of him who employed them in his Service, and a great Fear and Care rested upon my Mind, when I accompanied them, that I might not do any thing, in the least, that would lessen their Labour; and I found my Mind engaged to travel with them, while they laboured in Word and Doctrine.

I lived with the aforesaid Friend, *Joseph Hoar*, until the Year 1712, about which time I inclined to marry: I often sincerely applied to the Lord, and besought him to direct me aright in this great and weighty Undertaking; and I have great reason to believe, that his good Hand of Providence provided for me. In the Year 1713, I took to Wife *Blessing Fennell*, Daughter of *William* and *Blessing Fennell* of *Youghal*, who proved a pious Woman, and a true Help-meet to me, both inwardly and outwardly.

About this time, viz. 1713, I found a Necessity on my Mind, to speak a few Words in our religious Meetings for Worship, to stir up Friends to Love and Good Works; this was a close Exercise to me, but I was desirous above all things, to be found in the faithful discharge of my Duty to the Lord, who had been wonderfully kind to me: I met with comfortable Encouragement from many faithful Friends, yet I was afraid of being too forward, or frequent in my Appearances.

And



And now having opened my Mouth in Meetings, I was greatly concerned to walk agreeable to what I said in Words, both in Conversation, and in my Trade and Business; and a Care was on my Mind to avoid the hurtful and unnecessary Incumbrances of this World, in which Concern my Wife joined me, and we found it our Place, diligently to attend Meetings for the Worship of Almighty God, both on week Days and first Days, so that we seldom missed a Meeting (if in health of Body) and we were concerned to give liberty to our Servants, frequently to attend such Meetings. In our early Days the Lord owned us herein, and blessed our Endeavours both inwardly and outwardly.

I found it my Duty, not only to attend Meetings for Worship and Discipline, in this City, but it also became my Concern to attend Quarterly and Provincial Meetings, as they fell in course; also the National Meetings in *Dublin*, both Summer and Winter; and often such small Meetings as were near the City.

I found the Lord gradually carrying on his Work in my Heart, and as I have hinted before something of the great Care and Concern of faithful Elders and Ministers, so now he was pleased to baptize my Mind into a degree of the same Concern with them (and though I was not forward to say much) yet I laboured and joined in Spirit with those who were zealously concerned for the Glory of God, and that his Testimony might be maintained, and the Discipline of the Church preserved on the  
right

right Foundation, and that all who made Profession of the blessed Truth, might walk answerable thereto, and be preserved out of Pride and all undue Liberty. My elder Friends and Brethren were sensible that I was exercised in my Mind for the Welfare of *Sion*, and desired that I might more closely unite with them in some necessary Services in the Church, and in the Year 1714 I was invited by them to join in visiting the Families of Friends, and to sit in their select or preparative Meeting.

I was very unwilling to give up hereto, being sensible of my inward Poverty and Weakness, but hoping to reap some Benefit to myself, I assented in great tenderness of Heart, desiring of the Lord that I might never neglect my own Vineyard.

Our particular Meeting returned my Name to the Province Meeting for Approbation, which Meeting readily agreed that I should join in the above Services. The form and method of Friends is good in this respect: But oh! a deep and weighty Concern was upon me, that I might enjoy the Power, and witness the holy Anointing, without which the Form, however excellent, availeth little. —

The same divine Power that qualifies for the true Ministry of the Gospel, is that which must prepare Elders and Overseers in the Church, diligently to oversee the Flock, as the holy Apostle well observed to the Elders of the Church of *Ephesus*, when he was about to part from them: *Take heed (says he) therefore unto yourselves,*

*yourselfes, and to all the Flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you Overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his Blood.*

It greatly concerns Elders and Overseers, in a very especial manner, to be good Examples to the Flock, in all manner of Conversation, and to keep their Families in Subjection, ruling well their own Houses; for if any in this Station fall short in these respects, how can they take care of the Church of God, and say to others, *Fellow us, as we follow Christ.*

In the Year 1715, I went to the yearly Meeting at *London*, in Company with *Joseph Fenn*, an honest, plain, sincere Friend of this City. I found my Mind engaged to go over chiefly to suffer with the Seed, and to travel in Spirit with faithful Friends, more than to appear in Words; in which Concern the Lord owned me with great Peace and Satisfaction of Mind, tho' it was a time of great Exercise, on Account of the Affirmation, which divers were dissatisfied with.

When the Meeting was over, I went with divers Friends towards *Cumberland*, having several good Meetings on the Road, and in that County, and in due time I got well home by way of *Dublin*.

In the Year 1715, *Charles Howell* and *Abigail Craven* were engaged to visit some Places, Westward of this City. I was willing to accompany them; on the 30th of the 11th Month we had two Meetings at *Kinsale*, at which were about thirty Friends from *Corke*, and abundance



dance of the Inhabitants of the Town: The Testimony of Truth was largely and freely declared amongst them, and the People called to Repentance and Amendment of Life; they were in general sober and attentive, and divers were affected. We went from thence to *Bandon*, so to *Castlesalem*, and had a Meeting there; we had Meetings also at *Baltimore* and *Skibbereen*, both which were large, and there was an Openness to hear Truth declared.

The few Friends that lived at *Skibbereen* were exhorted to be good Examples in their Lives and Conversation, that so none of them might be as stumbling Blocks to the weak, with desires, that they might live in Love, and that a Concern might be on their Minds to give no Occasion of Offence to *Jew*, *Gentile*, or the Church of Christ. At our Return we had a Meeting at *Bandon*, in which we were greatly exercised on account of the Rawness and Indifferency of Mind that prevailed amongst the Youth; we were bowed under a deep Sense of the great need they had to know the Power of Truth to change their Minds, and to redeem them out of the first Nature: And Parents of Children, Masters, and Mistresses of Families were exhorted to be good Examples and Patterns to the Youth, both in orderly Conversation, and a near and close exercise of Spirit, and travail of Soul in their religious Meetings, that they might be made instrumental in the Lord's Hands, to induce their Children to labour to get into the same Exercise and concern of Mind.

In

In the third Month 1721, I found Drawings on my Mind to be at the Yearly Meeting in *London*, and went over in Company with *Thomas Wilson*, *John Barcroft*, and *Joseph Gill*; we being appointed by the Half Year's Meeting to attend the Service of the Yearly Meeting. We had a pretty good Passage, and landed near *Chester* the 19th of the 3d Month. We had divers satisfactory Meetings, at sundry Places, in our Journey to *London*, and were at a Burial at *Dudlo*, and at the Quarterly Meeting of Friends at *Broomsgrave*. On both these Occasions the Gospel was freely preached in the Authority thereof, to the Encouragement of the honest hearted, and many Souls were affected with divine Goodness. We got to *London* the 27th of the 3d Month, being the 7th Day of the Week. The Mercy and Goodness of the Lord, was very eminently extended to Friends in this Meeting. It was a time of great Exercise to many sincere honest Friends on divers accounts, but the Lord's blessed Power was manifested in a good degree, and the windy Discourses of Men were blown away, and the Meeting was often brought into a cool Frame; and a Spirit of brotherly Love and Condescension prevailed, and the Meeting concluded well, and Friends returned to their Habitations glad, and thankful to the Lord, who had been with us and helped his People in time of Need.

I stayed in *London* some Days, and visited several Meetings; and being easy took leave

of Friends, and in Company with my dear, antient Friend, *James Dickenson*, went Northwards: We had Meetings in divers Counties, and came to *Cumberland*, where I was glad to see my Relations and Friends. I spent some time amongst them, and had some very satisfactory Meetings in divers parts of the County, and on the 3d Day of the 5th Month, took shipping at *Whitehaven* for *Dublin*, and landed there on the 7th of the same, being the sixth Day of the Week, and their Meeting Day, to which I went; it was a comfortable refreshing Meeting to me. In due time I got well home, and found my Wife and Family well; Praises be to the Lord for all his Mercies.

Our dear and antient Friend, *Thomas Wilson* stayed some time after the Meeting, and travelled in several Parts of *England*, being his last Journey into that Nation; he was fresh and lively in his old Age, and zealous for the spreading of Truth and Righteousness. I received the following Letter from him before his Return home, in which is manifested his Care for the Good of the Church.

*London*, 19th of the 11th Month, 1721.

*My dearly beloved Cousin,*

I N Love unfeigned I kindly salute thee,  
 ' and hereby let thee know, I received  
 ' thy kind Letter. I was truly glad of thy  
 ' Welfare, and Friends of that Nation, whom  
 ' I dearly love in the everlasting Truth, and  
 ' my



' my hearty Cries and humble Prayers are  
 ' unto the Lord of the heavenly Harvest, that  
 ' it may be his holy Pleasure to send forth  
 ' many faithful Labourers, that may be endued  
 ' with a sharp Ax, to cut down every super-  
 ' fluous Branch, and that a purging Fire may  
 ' go along with the holy Ministry, that so the  
 ' Camp of the Lord may be made thoroughly  
 ' clean, and shine in the Beauty of Holiness,  
 ' to the Glory of his heavenly Name, *Amen.*

' I have laboured very hard on the Sea-  
 ' Coast, on both Sides of the Nation, and in  
 ' many Places much People came in to hear  
 ' the way of Life and Truth, and received the  
 ' Seed with Joy of Heart.

' I was moved to be with Friends in this  
 ' City, about the Affirmation: My Service  
 ' hath been to keep down Heats amongst our-  
 ' selves (which in a good degree hath been  
 ' done) I did not think to come to *London*  
 ' again, but it pleased the Lord to open the  
 ' Fountain of the great Deep, and fill my  
 ' Soul with the Water of Life, and raise my  
 ' Mind into a Willingness to obey his heaven-  
 ' ly Will, and I have great Peace in obeying  
 ' and was kindly received. I long to see *Ire-*  
 ' *land* again, but am not clear, having several  
 ' Places before me yet to visit, if the Lord is  
 ' pleased to spare me Life. So with dear  
 ' Love, I rest thy loving Cousin,

THOMAS WILSON.

I found a Concern on my Mind, soon after  
 I got home from the Yearly Meeting, to visit

Friends in the Province of *Ulster*; I acquainted my Brethren here therewith, and they had Unity with me therein, and gave me their Certificate. I left home the 26th of the 7th Month, 1721, in Company with *John Thompson*, a publick Friend, from *England*; we had Meetings to good Satisfaction at *Charleville*, *Limerick*, *John Ashton's*, *Birr* and *Tullamore*, so went to *Edenderry*, where we parted, *John* going to *Dublin*; and my Kinsman, *Mungo Bewley*, being likewise under a Concern to visit Friends in the North, we set forward and visited Friends Meetings pretty generally in that Province, and likewise fell in with their Province Meeting at *Lurgan*, which was a good Meeting.

In this visit the Lord enabled us to answer his requirings to our mutual Comfort, and the Satisfaction of Friends: After the aforesaid Province Meeting was over, we went pretty directly towards *Dublin*, having a Meeting at *Drogheda* by the way. Here my agreeable Companion parted with me and went home, and I to *Dublin*, where I stayed until the Half Year's Meeting, which began the 8th of the 9th Month. We were favoured with a satisfactory comfortable Meeting, the Lord renewed the Visitations of his Love to the Souls of his People, and the Affairs of the Church were carried on in Peace and Concord. When the Service of the Meeting was over, I returned pretty directly home, my own Father being with me, who (tho' he was now upwards of 80 Years of Age) came over to see

see his Children and Friends. When I got home, I found my dear Wife and Family well, which renewed Thankfulness in my Heart to the Lord, who is indeed worthy to be feared, served and obeyed.

My Father left this City the 28th of the 12th Month, 1721, and he having Drawings on his Mind to visit Friends in some Places, I accompanied him. We had Meetings at *Youghal*, *Kilcommon* and *Limerick*, in this Province, also visited divers Meetings in the Province of *Leinster*, and got well to *Dublin*; the Lord was near to help, and tho' my dear Father was far advanced in Years, he was enabled to bear a living Testimony for the Lord; he soon left *Dublin*, and returned to his outward Habitation, and departed this Life in the 84th Year of his Age.

In the Year 1722 there was a great Rumour of an Invasion in favour of the Pretender, and it was believed that divers disaffected Persons enlisted Men for that Purpose, and sent them over to *France*.

I mention this, by reason a particular Exercise and Trouble fell to my Lot, and to another Friend of this City, on this Occasion, to wit, *Thomas Beale*: For two Informers applied to a Justice of Peace near *Mallow*, (whose Name was *Purdon*) and gave Examinations against said *Beale* and me, that we were aiding and assisting in sending Men over, and that we supplied Persons with Money for that Purpose, also that we met together at a certain House in this City for that end, and



fixed one of our Meetings to a certain Day, and time of the Day.

Justice *Purdon* came to *Corke* two Days before the Assizes, and as I was going to Bed sent for me, and told me what Examinations he had, and that it was his Business to take them for the King. I told him the whole of them was utterly false, and that I would not go out of the Way, neither did I believe *Thomas Beale* would; he took my Word and Promise to appear when called for, and engaged me to acquaint *Thomas Beale* of the Matter, for I believe he thought us innocent.

We were very thoughtful about this Affair, for many Persons in the Nation were apprehended, try'd, convicted and executed; the Reward for convicting Persons was considerable, and it was believed, that for the sake thereof, as well as to cover the guilty, some innocent Persons were so plainly sworn against, that they suffered with the guilty, which we did not know but might be our Case: But Providence (that knew our Innocency and Fidelity to the gracious and good Government, which in Mercy is placed over us) was pleased to frustrate the wicked Designs of evil and ungodly Men towards us. I called to Mind, that for some time of late I had been pretty much abroad, and on recollecting and searching my Papers, and viewing the Letters I had wrote to my Wife by Post, (on which were the Post Marks and Dates) I found I was above fifty Miles from home (the very Day they had fixed and swore to) accompanying my Father as aforementioned.

I took

I took an Opportunity to acquaint Justice *Purdon* hereof, before the Examinations came before the Grand Jury, and that I could bring divers Witnesses to prove the Truth hereof. By some means these wicked and base Informers heard this, and immediately disappeared and fled from Justice; when they were gone we understood, that if their Attempt had succeeded with us, that they had a List of several other Friends that they intended to inform against. Blessed be the Lord for all his Preservations and Deliverances.

It was very pleasant to me often to accompany ministring Friends, that visited us in the Love of Christ, not only in some Meetings in this Province, but likewise in the Province of *Leinster*, and as in my young Years, the solid Conversation of such was very helpful to me, I found their Company still to be so; and as the Lord was pleased to afford me and my Wife a Competency of the Things of this Life, our Hearts and House were open to receive the Ministers of the Gospel of Peace, and they were always welcome to us, and we were glad of their Company, receiving spiritual Benefit thereby.

In the 5th Month 1723 *Henry Jackson*, a valuable Minister of the Gospel from *England*, visited us; I found freedom to accompany him to some Meetings. We went from hence towards the County of *Wexford*, where we had divers comfortable Meetings, the Lord being near to assist us to perform the Service of each Meeting; all Honour and Praise be ascribed

ascribed to his great and living Name. From the County of *Wexford* we went pretty directly to the Quarterly Province Meeting for *Leinster* at *Mountmelick*, at which was a large Appearance of Friends from divers Parts, also many of the antient and honourable Friends of that Province: the Lord was near us, and owned his Testimony with his life-giving Presence. After the Meeting, I stayed there a few Days, being indisposed, but when I recovered, I set forward, and met my Companion at *Edward Cooper's*: we visited some Meetings in the Counties of *Carlow* and *Wicklow*, and so went to *Dublin*.

On my return homewards from *Dublin*, I went to visit my dear antient Friend and Cousin *Thomas Wilson*, who was in great Affliction of Body, being sorely afflicted with the Stone and Gravel; we were glad to see each other, and when parting took leave in great tenderness. From thence went to *Mountmelick*, to their monthly Meeting for Worship and Church Affairs, and after return'd home.

1725. When I was at home, I was diligent about my outward Affairs, and it pleased the Lord to bless my Industry, and increase Business, which seemed to require more constant Attendance, yet it became my Concern to order my Affairs so, that they might not hinder me nor my Family from constantly attending Meetings for Worship, both on week Days and first Days; and I was diligently concerned to keep out of the unnecessary Incumbrances  
of



of the World, being afraid lest they should hinder me from visiting my Brethren, when the Lord moved upon my Heart to see how they fared; in this I found Peace, and great inward Satisfaction, and was made sensible, that *Godliness with Contentment is great gain*, and tho' the leaving of outward Affairs may sometimes seem a Loss, yet the Lord is sufficient to make up all to those who are truly devoted to serve him, it being his Blessing that maketh truly rich. Under these Considerations, and feeling strong Engagements on my own Mind, I found it my Duty to be a good Example in the first Place to my own Family, having a watchful and tender Care over my Children and Servants for their good, and in the next Place to my Friends and Brethren, that they might be provoked to serve the Lord in their Generation.

I found it my Place diligently to attend Provincial and Quarterly Meetings, as they fell in course, as also the National Meetings in *Dublin*, in the third and ninth Month, being very desirous to serve the Lord, his Church, and People in my Day's time. And as my temporal Affairs occasioned my being in that City at times, I took care that they should not take up any of my time during the sitting of the Meeting, but I found Freedom and Liberty enough in the Truth when the Meeting was over, to do Business in moderation, for the Maintenance and Support of my Family, and I loved diligently to attend their Meetings for Worship, and Discipline, (and seldom, if  
ever

ever missed them) both on first Days and week Days, which were often to my Comfort and inward Satisfaction.

In these Times faithful Elders and concerned Friends were very diligent in visiting the Families of Friends, and a Concern was upon the sundry Meetings of this Province to assist one another in this Service: Friends from the other Meetings often assisted us in this City, and we went to them and joined therein.

These religious Visits were of great Service both to the Visitors and visited; the Lord our God often owned and favoured us in them; he gave us a Word in Season, to speak suitable to the States of Families and particular Persons; the Humble and honest-hearted were strengthened and encouraged, the Lukewarm and Careless were stirred up, and the Disobedient and Unfaithful plainly warned; the practical Part of true Religion was earnestly recommended, with Desires that the good and repeated Advices given forth might be duly observed, that so all making Profession with us, might walk answerable to their high and holy Calling, in the way of true Righteousness and Holiness.

In the Year 1726 I found Drawings in my Mind to be at the yearly Meeting of *London*, the Service of which, divers others, besides myself, were nominated by the Half Year's Meeting to attend. We landed at *Parkgate* the 21st of the 3d Month, and went pretty directly to *London*; the Meeting began the 29th of said Month. We had divers

satis-

satisfactory Meetings for Worship during the time of said Meeting, which tho' it held long, (some Affairs of Discipline requiring it) ended well, Friends being preserved in a good Degree of brotherly Love and Condescension. I left *London* the 13th of the 4th Month, in Company with my much esteemed antient Friend *James Dickenson*, and my Kinsman *David Hodgson*. We had a pleasant and comfortable Journey, having several good and satisfactory Meetings in our way to *Cumberland*. I visited several Meetings in that County to my Comfort, and took shipping at *Whitehaven*, the 2d of the 5th Month, for *Dublin*: We had a good Passage, landing there well on the 5th. I was thankful to the Lord for his Mercies, who in due time brought me safe home to my outward Habitation; he is the Author and Well-spring of all that which is good, and is near to help his depending Children in every time of need, blessed be his great Name for Ever.

The 29th of the 7th Month, 1727, I left home, and went to *Limerick*, where the Province Meeting was; from this Meeting, in Company with several Friends, I went to visit a few Friends settled at *Newport* in *Connaught*. We had two Meetings with said Friends, for the Worship of God, also a Men's Meeting; I went from thence towards *Dublin*, and attended the Service of the National, Half Year's Meeting.

In the Year 1732 I found it my Duty to be at the Yearly Meeting of *London*, and to visit  
some



some Meetings of Friends in *England*: I acquainted Friends of our Meeting with my Concern, who having Unity with me in it, gave me a Certificate. I went as usual to the National, Half Year's Meeting in *Dublin*, in which we were favoured with a renewed Sense of the Lord's Mercy and Goodness still extended to his People, and a zealous Concern was upon Friends, that all might be preserved out of the Evils of the World, and that a Stop might be put to the Spirit of Pride and undue Liberty, that too much prevails on some, and a careless unconcerned Mind on others; many living Testimonies were born, and divers good Recommendations sent to Friends, exciting them to Diligence and Care in these respects. May the Labour of Love, so often repeated, have the desired Effect, and may all lay to heart the merciful Dealings of the Lord, and be thereby provoked to Circumspection and Care.

Some Days after the Meeting, I, and several Friends, went on board one of the Pacquet-boats, and landed safe at *Holyhead*, from thence *Joseph Gill*, *Joseph Inman*, and myself, went to *Denby*, where we had a Meeting with a few Friends, and some People of the Town, so proceeded to *Shrewsbury*, where we likewise had a Meeting; from thence set out for *London*, and had some comfortable Meetings by the way, which was Encouragement to persevere in Faithfulness to the Lord's requirings. I stayed in *London* about two Weeks, and attended the Service of the Yearly Meeting, and was at fundry

sundry Meetings for Worship in that great City, and when I found my Mind clear left it the 8th of the 4th Month, in Company with my Friend *John Fry*. We had Meetings at *Reading* and *Newberry*, where we parted, I not being well; but yet being willing to get forward, went to *Marlborough*, where I had an Evening-Meeting, and next Day to *Sutton* in *Wiltshire*, to the aforefaid *John Fry's*, at whose House I stayed about a Week, being but poorly as to my Health. When I was a little recovered I set forward, and had several Meetings in my Way to *Bristol*, and was at several Meetings there, and enabled to labour amongst Friends, according to the Gift and Ability bestowed upon me, to my Comfort and their Satisfaction, and being clear of that City I left it in Company with *Daniel Badger*, a Friend that intended for *Ireland* to visit Friends there; we had Meetings at *Sadbury*, *Nailsworth*, *Ross*, *Hereford* and *Lempster*, so passed into *Wales*, and had divers Meetings amongst Friends in the Northern Parts thereof, to our Comfort and Encouragement: The last Meeting we had was at *Ellis Lewis's* near *Dolgelthy*, after which said *Ellis* accompanied us thro' a very mountainous Country to *Carnarvan*, when we parted with him and went on towards *Holyhead*, and about two Hours after we got there went on board the Pacquet-boat, being the 22d of the 5th Month, and 7th Day of the Week; we got to *Dublin* next Day about Noon, and went to the Afternoon Meeting. I stayed a little time in *Dublin*, and went from thence pretty directly home, where I found things well. Praises and Thanksgivings

be to the Lord for his abundant Mercies every way afforded.

In the Year 1738 I had an Exercise and Concern upon my Mind, to visit my Friends and Brethren, in some of the Northern Parts of *England*, *Scotland*, and the Province of *Ulster* in this Nation. It was hard with me to give up hereto, not knowing of any Companion; however being made sensible that the Lord's Power is sufficient in all respects, I laid my Concern before our Men's Meeting, who having unity with me herein, gave me their Certificate accordingly.

I left home the 24th of the 4th Month 1738, and had Meetings at *Kilcommon*, *Knockballymagher*, and *Mountrath*; from thence went to the Quarterly Provincial Meeting at *Mountmelick*, which was large, and held part of three Days; my Cousin *Mungo Bewley* was there, and I acquainted him with my Concern; he told me he had been under the like Exercise of Mind for some time past, which I was very glad of, so we concluded to meet at *Dublin* after the Meeting was over. I visited Friends Meetings in sundry Places of that Province, and according to appointment we met together at *Dublin*; from thence we took shipping for *Whitehaven*, and landed well there. We visited Friends Meetings in several Parts of the Counties of *Cumberland*, *Westmoreland*, and in some Parts of *Yorkshire* and *Lancashire*, and by way of *Cumberland* went towards *Scotland*, had a Meeting at *Kelso*, and were at *Edinburgh* at their two Meetings on a first Day of the Week: We proceeded from thence Northwards, and visited Friends  
pretty



pretty generally in those Parts, and when clear we returned (by way of *Perth* and *Stirling*) towards *Glasgow*, had a Meeting there, as also at *Gathshore*. From *Glasgow* we went to *Port-Patrick*, and took Boat and landed safe at *Donaghadee* in the North of *Ireland*. We visited Friends Meetings in that Province pretty generally, and got well in due time to *Edenderry*, where my dear-Companion lived. We had a comfortable and satisfactory Journey in the Will of God, who gave the Word and Strength to publish it to the Comfort of Friends; and we returned with the Answer of Peace in our own Bosoms. I went from *Edenderry* to *Dublin*, where I stayed till the Half Year's Meeting, when it was over returned home, and found my Wife and Family well, blessed be the Lord for all his abundant Favours! his People have cause to say that indeed he is worthy to be followed and obeyed.

I observed, that from the Year 1713 to 1720, there were ninety-seven Friends of the Ministry who visited us (being about thirteen each Year) after that to the Year 1740 not so many, yet generally there were eight or ten each Year; from whence I have often remarked the Care of the Lord over his People, the Consideration of his unutterable Love hath often deeply affected my Mind; he by his blessed Power and Word of Life, reached to, and gathered us to be a People, and by the same Power preserved and supported our early Friends in their great Trials and Persecutions, which were many, (as appears by the Records and Accounts they have transmitted to us of them.)

So that had not the Lord been on their Side when Men rose up against them, they had been swallowed up, for they had no Helper in the Earth but the Lord, and his Christ, who stood by them, and made many of them able Ministers of the Gospel of Life and Salvation, by the powerful Word whereof, many were not only convinced of the Truth of that holy Principle of Light and Grace that is come by our Lord Jesus Christ, but by yielding Obedience thereto came to be converted, and made Partakers of that precious Faith which he is the Author of; and were not only made to believe in his Name, but likewise to suffer, counting nothing too dear for the Sake thereof; and tho' they bore the Burden and Heat of the Day, and trod the Path before us, yet they were supported and made instrumental in some Degree to make the Way easy for us.

What Cause have we of this Generation to remember these things, and to walk in Humility and Thankfulness before the Lord, and not be like *Israel* of old (who by the mighty Power of God, with Signs and Wonders, were brought out of the Land of *Egypt* thro' the Red Sea and the Wilderness, where he by his Servant *Moses* gave them excellent Laws and Precepts, and in his appointed time settled them in their Possessions in the Land of *Canaan*,) for after the Death of *Joshua* and the Elders that out lived him, there arose another Generation that knew not the Lord: they forsook him, the God of their Fathers, and did not keep his Laws and Precepts; so their Enemies overcame them, and they were carried into Captivity by them.

This

This People were very greatly favoured by the Lord, as is very plainly set forth by the Prophet under the Parable of a Vineyard, *Isaiah 5*. He in the Name of the Lord declares the great Kindness and Labour bestowed upon them, and then queries, *What could have been done more to my Vineyard, that I have not done for it? Wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth Grapes, brought it forth wild Grapes?* And then tells how he would bring his Judgments on them for their Sins.

These things nearly concern us in this Day, and I greatly desire all may lay them to heart.

The Lord gathered us to be a People, as I have hinted before, not by the Might and Power of Man, but by the Might of his own Power, and not only extended of his Goodness to our faithful Antients, but he has been abundant in his Love to us; he has planted in his Church the choicest Vine, given to it Salvation for Walls and Bulwarks, and the Hedge of Discipline for a Defence; and has raised a godly Care in the Hearts of many Friends, for the Preservation of all who make Profession of the blessed Truth. Many Minutes and Recommendations, have in the Wisdom thereof, been repeatedly given forth from the National Meetings, both of *London* and *Dublin*, and much labour hath been used that the good and wholesome Rules might be duly observed and put in Practice; and a great and additional Blessing he has favoured his Vineyard with; he has sent his Servants and is still sending of them, some as Waterers, others as Planters and Diggers in his Hand; he has filled them as Clouds with Rain,



and not only has caused them to empty themselves on his Heritage, to the great Refreshment of the hungry and thirsty Soul, but the Lukewarm and Indifferent about religious Duties, have been invited and stirred up to more Zeal and Faithfulness, the Disobedient warned and exhorted to turn to the Lord, (whose Controversy is against Sin and Wickedness) who will bring his Judgments upon the Ungodly and such as forget his Name.

Oh the Labour and Pains the Lord God Almighty hath bestowed upon us ! Oh the Greatness of his Love, his Visitations and Favours ! He is now looking on his Vineyard, and seeking for Fruits ; he delights not in the Fruits of the Flesh, in the Pride of Life, in the Fruits of a vain Conversation, and a Conformity to the World, in the vain Customs and Fashions thereof, but he's looking for Fruits of Holiness, Purity and Righteousness ; and he will delight to water Souls with his Goodness that are concerned to walk before him, agreeable to his Mercy and loving Kindness extended towards them, when *those that are sowing to the Flesh shall of the Flesh reap Corruption*, agreeable to the Doctrine of the holy Apostle.

In the Year 1744 I found Drawings on my Mind to be at our Province Meeting, which was by Appointment to be at *Cashel*. I went thither in Company with several Friends, tho' I was but in an indifferent state of Health, having a great Pain in my Back which much affected me in the Journey ; I attended the Meetings, tho' under great Pain of Body, and got home with some Difficulty. My Disorder from this time increased,

creased, insomuch that in the Years 1745 and 1746 I was mostly confined to my Chamber, my Back and Legs being so weak that I could scarce walk. I consulted some Physicians, who advised me to go over to Bath, to which I agreed, believing it lawful and necessary to use Means in times of Weakness of Body; accordingly I and my Wife, with a Servant, took shipping for *Bristol*, and after a tedious Passage landed there the 20th of the 5th Month 1747, from thence we went to *Bath* by Water, not being able to bear the Shaking of a Coach.

At *Bath* I grew weaker and weaker; the Use of my Legs and Feet failed me, so that I could not stir them, and they gradually became as it were dead, and insensible of Feeling. Great was my Affliction of Body! I consulted some Persons there skilled in Physick, yet my Dependance was not upon them; my Hope and Expectation was only and alone upon the Lord. My earnest Prayers were to him to sanctify my Afflictions unto me, that whatsoever he might yet see meet to try me with, I might be enabled to bear it with Submission to his Will; and indeed I had good Cause to say he took Notice of my Prayers, and answered my Request, he granted Faith in his Name, and a good degree of Patience; for when my Afflictions were the greatest, both of Body and Mind, he preserved me from sinking too low, and I often found his Mercy and Goodness were greater than my Pain, and I found help near which supported me to bear it; tho' I was so weak, that it was not expected I should

should ever get to my outward Habitation, yet a secret Hope sprang in my Heart, that all would work together for good, and a Willingness and Resignation were begot in me to the divine Will whether in Life or Death.

I continued for several Months in great Weakness of Body, and finding that no outward Means were like to be serviceable to me, I discharged the Physicians I had employed, and my Concern was more and more to look to the Lord, the great Physician of Soul and Body, and I was easier in my Mind herein; I found strong Desires to return home, which I attempted, tho' very feeble and almost helpless. We left *Bath* the 10th of 1st Month 1747-8, and went to *Bristol* by Water, from *Bristol* we had a good Passage home, where we got the 18th of said Month, for which great Mercy and Favour, with many more received, I have great Cause to be thankful to the Lord, the great Helper and Preserver. After my getting home, I continued for some time much as I had been in *England*, but through the Lord's great Mercy he supported me, and his heart-tendering Goodness was near, so that I had still cause to trust in that Arm of Power that hath hitherto help'd, and to walk in great Humility and Thankfulness before him all the Days of my appointed Time.

About the 5th Month 1748, when there appeared, as to the outward, no Prospect of Recovery, nor that I should ever have the Use of my Legs and Feet, the Lord was pleased so to order it (to the Admiration of many) that gradually I got the Use of them again, though  
the



the Pain in my Back continued, so that at last I could walk a little about, and divers times got to Meeting. I have had in this, as well as in other Favours received from the Lord, to admire his wonderful Love, and to bless and praise his most holy Name. Though I had many Returns of great Weakness, yet at times was easier from Pain, and could bear sitting in Meeting pretty well, tho' some times it was difficult to me, yet I was willing to get thither as often as I could, which I have done until this 20th of the 8th Month 1749.

On reading the 116th Psalm, I often thought it was suitable to my Condition, and it's my Desire that I may not only so apply it, but be concern'd to live agreeable thereto, the few Days the Lord may yet be pleased to afford me in this Vale of Tears. I believe that he that has helpt me all my Life long, is all sufficient not only to sanctifie and make Afflictions profitable, but in the End bring to that eternal Joy and Comfort, where the Wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.

Thanksgiving and Praise be rendered and ascribed to the Lord God, and the Lamb, who is worthy for evermore. *Amen.*

Corke, 20th of the 8th  
Month, 1749.

GEORGE BEWLEY.

The

**T**HE foregoing Account of our dear Friend *George Bewley*, concerning the Dealings of the Lord with him, thro' the Course of his Pilgrimage here, was continued by himself unto the 20th of the 8th Month 1749.

After which he several times attended our Religious Meetings for the Worship of God, and tho' very weak in Body, was enabled in a living Manner to appear in them, and to press the heart-work of Religion, and to a circumspect Walking in all manner of Conversation, agreeable to that holy Principle *of Grace and Truth, that comes by Christ, giving no Occasion of Offence to Jew, Gentile, nor the Church of Christ.*

His Weakness increasing upon him, he could not attend Meetings, but signified to Friends that visited him, his Concern for the Prosperity of Truth. The 10th of the 10th Month, being the Time of our Quarterly Meeting, some Friends coming to see him, he was concerned to press them to Faithfulness, and to use Diligence to do their Day's Work in the Day-time, saying he had often occasion to look back and remember the Zeal and Concern that was upon the Minds of our antient Friends in times past, to keep near to Truth, and to attend their Meetings for Worship and Discipline, and that with great Concern he had observed some now too negligent in these respects, adding, that it was his Comfort that he had been diligently concerned herein, whilst of Ability, which he found was all little enough, having

having done but his Duty therein. This with much more not remembered he delivered in a sweet, tender Frame of Spirit, to the affecting of the Minds of Friends present.

He was preserved in a patient resigned Frame of Mind to the Will of God, yet desired with Submission thereto, to be removed to *where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest*; intimating, in the Time of his greatest Weakness that he found the Lord near to help and support him.

He departed this Life the 11th of the 12th Month 1749, in great Peace and Quietness, like a Lamb, without Sigh or Groan; and was buried in Friends Burying Ground in *Corke*, the 13th of the same.

F I N I S.



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